

ABSTRACT

WA-I-180

Gabby-Abbott Farm

Leitersburg Vicinity

private

Ca. 1795

Mid-19th Century

The house on this farm is primarily significant for its architecture. Constructed in two parts, it reflects vernacular building traditions of the Cumberland Valley spanning a period of years. The original section was presumably built by William Gabby, a man of Scotch-Irish descent whose family migrated to present day Washington County from Pennsylvania.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON:					
Gabby-Abbott Farm					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Strite Road					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Leitersburg Vicinity					
STATE:			COUNTY:		
Maryland			Washington		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Guest House		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME:					
James L. Abbott					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Route # 8, Box 103					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Hagerstown			Maryland		21740
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Washington County Court House					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Hagerstown			Maryland		21740
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 489/425					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncolored	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located approximately one mile north of Leitersburg at the end of a private lane extending east from Strite Road near its junction with Leitersburg-State Line Road in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a slight slope overlooking the Antietam Creek and faces east.

The structure is a two story, six bay stone dwelling constructed of roughly coursed local limestone. The house was built in two sections. It is divided nearly in half by a vertical seam between the third and fourth bays of the front elevation. The northern portion of the house is wider than the south section, giving the rear elevation an "out shot" with a long sloping roof. The masonry employed at each section is distinctly different. No decorative stone work is associated with the exterior of either part of the structure.

Windows appear to be spaced evenly in each section of the house. Those in the southern half have very wide wooden frames displaying pegged joining and quarter round trim. Six over nine light sashes are present at the lower story of the front elevation while a nine over six light sash is used at the first story of the rear elevation. Second story windows have six over six pane sashes with the exception of one small six pane opening in the west elevation. At the front of the northern section of the house, window frames are quite narrow with mitred corners and beaded inner edges. Those at the lower story have nine over six light sashes while upper story level windows have six over six sashes. Windows in the rear elevation are quite irregular employing both wide, pegged and narrow frames with various types of sashes.

Entrances in the front elevation are located in the third bay from the south end of the southern section and in the center bay of the north half of the house. Both entrances display similar treatment with symmetrically molded trim and decorated corner blocks finishing their frames. A three bay, shed roof porch extends along part of the front elevation, sheltering the entrances. At the rear of the house is another entrance with massive framing supporting a door with six raised panels. A second door in the out shot at the rear elevation shows similar framing. A one story porch extends across the west elevation of the south section.

The roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles and extends beyond the end walls terminating with a plain barge board. Simple boxing finishes the eaves. A brick chimney with a decorative corbel at its top is located inside the south end wall. A small brick flue is centrally located in the north section.

A board found behind the fireplace mantel in the south room of the house was inscribed with the following: "James M. Leiter, Builder. Gen. Lewis Cass and William Butts for President and Vice President. October 28, 1848. Democratic Candidate."

The house is in excellent condition and is located on a tract containing 115.34 acres.

Other structures on the property include a long, three bay, one story stone outbuilding with a chimney inside its east gable end. A large barn is also present.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1800

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is primarily significant for its architecture. Constructed in two parts of local fieldstone, it reflects vernacular building traditions of the Cumberland Valley spanning a period of years. The south section of the structure would appear to be the older, displaying characteristics which suggest a building date during the 1790's or the early years of the 1800's. The 1848 date found behind the mantel could also be the date of the addition which has exterior woodwork consistent with building techniques during the second quarter of the 19th century. Other primary and secondary documentary evidence would tend to support these suggested construction dates.

The house is built on property which was acquired by John Gabby, Sr., a settler of Scotch-Irish descent who apparently migrated to what is now Washington County from Pennsylvania. According to Herbert C. Bell in his History of Leitersburg District, Gabby purchased 166 acres from Peter Good in 1769. In 1773, he purchased from James Brownlee an additional 100 acres.<sup>1</sup> The lands were located on both sides of the Antietam Creek. According to Bell, Gabby built a house on the portion of the property east of the Creek prior to the Revolution.<sup>2</sup> (see WA-I-172). In 1795 John Gabby divided his plantation in Washington County selling it to two of his sons, John and William. (Liber I, Folio 188). John Gabby Jr. received the portion of his father's land on which the improvements were situated, while William acquired the section west of the Creek. It is possible that William Gabby built the southern portion of the house shortly after he acquired the property in 1795.

In 1841 William Gabby's will was probated. The document directed his executor, Joseph Gabby, to sell his real estate (Will Liber D, Folio 423). In 1845, Joseph Gabby, acting as executor sold the property to Nathan McDowell for \$6,000. (Liber IN2, Folio 625). Nathan McDowell may have had the addition made to the original structure.

In 1858 McDowell, et al. sold the property to John Hess, Sr. (IN13/64). It was in the Hess family until 1867 when it was purchased by Joseph Strite whose heirs sold it to Leonard F. and Cora E. Werking in 1917. (152/350). Except for a brief period, the property was owned by the Werking family until 1965.

The farm includes parts of the grants, "Martin's Fancy," "Rich Barrens" and "Resurvey on Poe's Part of Well Taught."

<sup>1</sup> Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District, Leitersburg, Md: the author (1908) p. 216.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Herbert C., History of Leitersburg District, Leitersburg, Md:  
the author, 1908.

Washington County Land Records.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **115.34 acres**

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

DATE

**November 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:

**Court House Annex**

CITY OR TOWN:

**Hagerstown**

STATE

**Maryland**

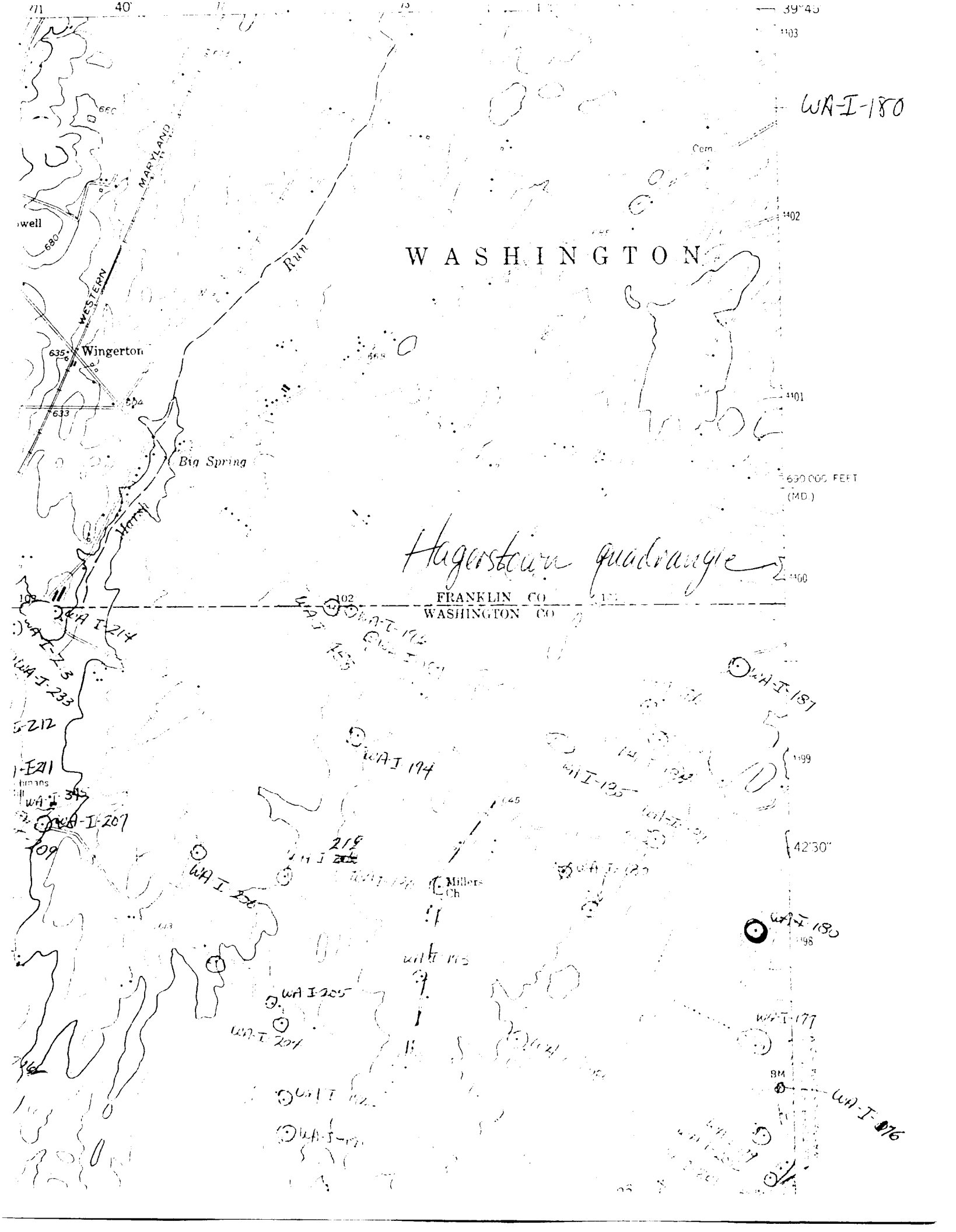
## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





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PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



10/12/1940

11

10/12/1940

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W. DICKY  
WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



to the 1st of 1870,  
Oct. 1870 - 1871  
Nov. 1871 -

EDNA STONER DICKEY  
WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY